

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0027

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, YO

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARY CALLS FOR US-YUGOSLAV
CONSULTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: BELGRADE 2687

SUMMARY. IN INTRODUCTORY CALL BY ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR,
ASSISTANT FOREIGN TRADE SECRETARY ZIBERNA REITERATED RECOMMEND-
ATION FOR US-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA MTN
TRADE. MRS. ZIBERNA TERMED EEC ACTION ON YUGOSLAV MEAT EXPORTS
"A TRAUMA". END OF SUMMARY.

1. DURING INTRODUCTORY CALL BY NEW ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR
YORK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF FOREIGN TRADE MILICA ZIBERNA QUICKLY
TURNED TO SUBJECT WHICH, SHE SAID, HAS BEEN OF GREATEST CONCERN TO
HER FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS: EEC BAN ON BABY BEEF IMPORT, WHICH HAS
NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 1ST.

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2. MOVE IS NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH LETTER AND SPIRIT OF EEC-

YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION AND RULED OUT SUDDEN SHIFTS IN TRADE POLICY, MRS. ZIBERNA EMPHASIZED. YUGOSLAVIA HAS NO EARLY HOPES OF SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS 150 MILLION DOLLAR A YEAR MARKET, ALTHOUGH USSR MAY BUY MODERATE QUANTITIES (BUT NOT AT PREMIUM PRICES ITALY USED TO PAY) AND SHIPMENTS TO MIDDLE EAST ARE POSSIBLY EVENTUALLY WHEN NEEDED REFRIGERATION FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE.

3. IN MEANTIME LIVESTOCK BREEDERS, PARTICULARLY IN VOJVODINA AREA, ARE EXPERIENCING SERIOUS CRISIS BECAUSE SLAUGHTER HOUSES ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE FATTENED CATTLE, AND ARE TURNING TO GOVERNMENT FOR "POLITICAL SOLUTION."

4. MEAT PROBLEM ILLUSTRATES NEED FOR SUCCESS OF 90-NATION TRADE NEGOTIATIONS EXPECTED TO BEGIN THIS FALL, MRS. ZIBERNA STATED. YUGOSLAVIA WILL AIM IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE BARRIERS, AND OTHER TYPES OF NONTARIFF BARRIERS, AND FOR A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT TO GOVERN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. YUGOSLAVIA WILL ALSO RECORD ITS OPPOSITION TO RECIPROCAL PREFERENCES IN TRADE BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND LDC'S, AND ITS SUPPORT OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES, WITH MAXIMUM PREFERENCE TO LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS.

5. MRS. ZIBERNA RECALLED WHAT SHE TERMED HIGHLY VALUABLE DISCUSSIONS ON MULTILATERAL TRADE ISSUES WITH AMBASSADOR EBERLE IN JUNE 1973 AND WITH ANTHONY JURICH, SPECIAL ADVISOR, COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, IN OCTOBER 1973.

6. SHE STRONGLY REITERATED HER PROPOSAL (REPORTED REFTTEL) FOR RENEWED US-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. TOO OFTEN, SHE SAID, US AND YUGOSLAVIA BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHERS' POSITIONS ONLY JUST PRIOR TO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AT GATT, UNCTAD, OR OTHER FORUMS - TOO LATE FOR TIMELY FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THESE POSITIONS, AND FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION. GOY, SHE SAID, WOULD LIKE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON GENEVA MTN OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSALS WELL BEFORE START OF TALKS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT MRS. ZIBERNA'S PROPOSAL FOR US-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS BE ACCEPTED. WE RECOMMEND AMBASSADOR MALMGREN OR SENIOR U.S. EXPERT VISIT BELGRADE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EARLY FALL FOR THIS PURPOSE. IF THEY UNAVAILABLE, EMBASSY PROPERLY BRIEFED, IS PREPARED TO CARRY ON TALKS IN BELGRADE. AS A LEADER OF NON-ALIGNED, YUGOSLAVIA IS IN POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITIONS AMONG LDC'S AND TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE ON BEHALF OF US POSITIONS. POSITIONS OF TWO COUNTRIES ON MANY ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR TO BE QUITE CLOSE.
TOON

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